

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A vertical bagging apparatus includes a vertically mounted spool for dispensing a roll of centerfold plastic film with the fold in the upper position. A pair of vertical metering rollers are mounted adjacent to the spool for advancing the film from the spool. An adjustable generally inverted-V-shaped film inverter is mounted downstream from the metering rollers. A sealing and severing system is located beneath the film inverter and a trim spool is located beneath the sealing and severing system. The film inverter turns the film inside out, relocating the fold from the horizontal axis to the vertical axis. The film inverter also causes the open end of the folded film to be accessible from either above or the side. The film inverter is adjustable by raising and lowering the apex of the inverted-V which relocates the horizontal location of the fold in the film. According to a presently preferred embodiment, the film inverter is made from flexible wire and the free ends of the wire are attached to a takeup shaft. According to the invention, the sealing and severing system includes a flat faced heated bar and a sharp contoured compliant sealing surface. This system provides sealing and severing without buildup of plastic material on the heated bar because the severing is actually performed by the cool sealing surface rather than by the heated bar.